



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application ) PATENT APPLICATION J

Inventors: Barry N. Gardiner ) Art Unit: 3731 8/28  
Paul T. McDonald )  
Richard D. Phipps ) Examiner: Pham, T. #11/8

SC/Serial No.: 08/781,579 )

Filed: January 9, 1997 )

Title: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL )  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND )  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY )  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND )  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY )

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 20, 1998.

Dona C. Edwards

Dona C. Edwards, Reg. No. 42,507  
Signature Date: August 20, 1998

**RESPONSE B TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This RESPONSE B is in reply to the Office Action mailed July 20, 1998.

**Amendments**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: